AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Amend Paragraph No. [0027], beginning on page 12, as follows:

[0027]   Referring now to Fig. 4, there is shown a flow chart that illustrates a subroutine for implementing the flow adjustment shown in functional block 60 in Fig. 3. The subroutine is applicable to both of the embodiments of the invention that are described above. The subroutine is entered through block 70 in which the algorithm is awaiting a request to adjust the traffic flow of IP packets over a backbone network. Upon receipt or a transmission request, the subroutine advances to functional block 72 where the request is authenticated and the requestor authorized. The authentication occurring at this point is necessary to assure that the ~~requester~~ requestor is an authorized network management system or operator rather than a hacker. Accordingly, marking, labeling or distinguishing of premium and best effort customers must occur before reaching the traffic shaper or media gateway. With respect to traffic shapers, the invention contemplates that the network address or packet labels are appropriately configured while, with respect to media gateways, the incoming circuit that is to be translated is appropriately configured. For simplicity, authentication and authorization failure scenarios are not shown in Fig. 4. The subroutine then advances to decision block 73.